N. Bushnell

ARA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/IDC/IMR

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE S/S 7/29/87

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑ December 18, 1978

RELEASE DENIED ☐

FOI EXEMPTIONS

1906

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TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: M - Ben H. Read

FROM: L - Lee R. Marks

Your Lunch with Secretary Brown -- Guyana Funding

Secretary Brown may raise the question of funding authority for Guyana at lunch.

Initially, we hoped that each agency could absorb its own costs, with AID picking up what was left. DOD has the only significant costs, about $3.6 million as of mid-December. DOD adamantly objects to absorbing these costs and states flatly that it will not do so.

When the Guyana Working Group was set up, OMB asked to be put in charge of a sub-group on funding. We agreed. OMB initially favored using the AID Disaster Relief Fund. (OMB agrees with DOD that it is preferable legally and politically to look to AID.) OMB is now more inclined to look to AID's Economic Supporting Assistance funds, an alternative that AID's lawyers prefer (if AID's funds are used at all).

Bob Beckel took soundings with the Foreign Assistance and Armed Services Committees on the Hill last week. Predictably, each committee insists that the funds not come from the appropriations under its jurisdiction.

DOD is agitated at the failure to resolve the issue. Because of other matters pending with DOD (Iran, Nicaragua, boat refugees, etc.) we need to resolve the issue quickly.

The stumbling block now is Bob Lipshutz. He reportedly sees no need to move quickly; he has reportedly told OMB that there should be a thorough review of the funding issue by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. (I think that is a terrible idea.)

Lipshutz has called a meeting this afternoon to discuss funding; if the issue is still unresolved after that meeting it may be useful for you to call Lipshutz.

At lunch, I suggest that you tell Secretary Brown that OMB has assumed responsibility for deciding the funding issue, that we agree it should be decided quickly, and that we think this problem points to the need for seeking additional authority from Congress to deal with crises of this sort.

cc: CA
ARA

L:LRMarks:cdj:12/18/78:28460